

Remarks

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action of June 9, 2003. Claims 1-15 are pending. Claims 9-15 are allowed, claims 4-5 are objected to, and claims 1-3 and 6-8 are rejected. In response, the Specification is amended; claims 1, 4, and 5 are amended; and the following remarks are submitted. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Claims 9-15 are allowed, and objected-to claims 4-5 are written in independent form without changing their scope. The following remarks do not apply to these claims.

Claims 1-3 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Schaeffer US Patent 6,066,405. Applicant traverses this ground of rejection of the claims as amended.

Schaeffer does not disclose the presence of added hafnium in the outer layer of a protective coating. Amended claim 1 recites that added hafnium (Specification, para. [0027]) is present in the outer layer, and specifies a maximum amount of hafnium that is permitted in the outer layer.

Claims 6-7 recite specific values of the platinum and aluminum contents that are not given by the reference.

Applicant asks that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this ground of rejection.

Claims 6-7 are rejected under 35 USC 103 over Schaeffer US Patent 6,066,405. Applicant traverses this ground of rejection.

Claims 6-7 incorporate the limitations of claim 1, which are not taught by the

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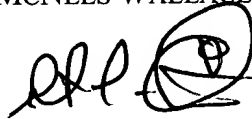
reference for the reasons stated earlier and which are incorporated here.

Additionally, Schaeffer does not teach the limitations of these claims.

Applicant asks that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this ground of rejection.

Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance, and requests such allowance.

Respectfully submitted,  
MCNEES WALLACE & NURICK LLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kurt L. Ehresman', with a large circular flourish at the end.

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